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Ridgway 2 / 87.

May 23 d.

Cambridge

Dear Sir

I always shrink from any critical reading of one which I have been, however one in a dark of responsibility concerning accuracy, - and the looking up of details required a good deal of time.

I can however endorse the generalizations contained

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in Jun letter.

In Agadir I received his degree at Cambridge last month (1877), - I think in the month of February.

The assistant who accompanied him on the U. American Expedition was Mr Garman.

I take the correct spelling of the name for

1807–1873.

al experience; for often and often have we cut open a new cata-
rvor and ivory folder of a first love; often read one at tea; nay,
gainst dozens of volumes in the list, out of the pure imagination
g out of the question!" — LEIGH HUNT.

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LOUIS AGASSIZ AND HIS FRIENDS.

BY JULIUS H. WARD.

THE founder of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy at Harvard will always remain its first and greatest benefactor. When Louis Agassiz appeared before the Legislative Committee of Massachusetts, February 13, 1871, to plead for the enlarged support of the Museum, in order to make it the equal of the museums of Europe, and Col. Theodore Lyman had reminded the Committee that Professor Agassiz's working days were very precarious, and that, if the aid was to be granted at all, it must be granted then, or it would not be likely to do him or any one else much good, Agassiz was so affected that the following words rose impromptu to his lips: "My whole thought is wrapped up in that Museum, and I will tell you why. When I saw the importance of such an institution, I considered very carefully what was the wiser thing for me to do, to go on writing, or to devote my energies to building up a museum. I had then published two volumes of my "Contributions to the Natural History of the United States." They met with much favor, such as no work of a similar kind has ever received in this country. To continue the work would have been a source of great income to me, but I thought I could do more good by building up a museum. It is eight years since I left off writing. It was not a want of desire to make contributions to science, or to rival the scientific men of Europe, who look upon me as though I had gone to sleep in the United States, and as though my usefulness had been wasted in popular efforts. I thought I knew what I was aiming at when I was trying to secure the lead in the progress of science to my adopted country, and I am just in a position which is the most critical of my life."

These words came from Louis Agassiz's heart. They reveal the spirit in which he founded the Museum, and what he contributed to it. The first step of vantage-ground for him was the purchase of his accumulated specimens for $12,000, a sum raised by the late Samuel A. Eliot, chiefly among Boston people. In 1858 these collections had outgrown any place that could be provided for them, and the need of a building where they could be safely stored seemed imperative. The late Francis Calley Gray, a scholar by birth, an early contributor to the *North American Review*, and an intimate friend of Agassiz's, saw this need, and made provision in his will for a bequest of $50,000, for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a Museum of Comparative Zoölogy at Cambridge. The bequest was couched in such terms that, if Agassiz should be removed, it could be used for a similar purpose elsewhere, and Mr. Gray's nephew, William Gray, himself subsequently a benefactor of the Museum, lost no time in turning it over to the President and Fellows of Harvard University. This gift enabled Agassiz to make the beginning in 1859.

Mr. Gray is numbered among the Boston orators. In early life he was private secretary to John Quincy Adams while Minister to Russia. He edited several volumes of the "Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society," was a member of many literary bodies, and had the greatest respect for careful and thorough scholarship. His memory was remarkable. He could repeat *verbatim atque literatim* anything he had ever read. One day at Nahant, when the young people had exhausted all their books and were looking about for some entertainment, they asked Mr. Gray to serve them. He complied by taking a book, *pro forma*, in his hand, and repeated to them Byron's poems from memory until the gong sounded for dinner. While his elegant scholarship is still remembered by a younger generation,

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one of his best claims to remembrance is his generous foresight in leading the benefactions which founded an institution that is already the rival of institutions of the same class in the Old World.

When the Massachusetts Legislature was approached, in 1859, to assist in the erection of a museum building, Agassiz was able to say to the representatives of the people: "There is not an assistant in my department whom I do not now pay out of my own pocket, and I expect to incur personally the expense of labelling and preparing the specimens when they are put in the new building, should one be erected." The State responded liberally to the man whose interest in science made him forgetful of self, and Agassiz in October, 1859, not to be outdone by the Commonwealth, begged the Trustees of the Museum to accept from him specimens for which he had paid $10,000 in cash, not counting in his travelling expenses while engaged in collecting them, as a "contribution to the Museum from a student of nature who feels deeply grateful for all that you are doing for the advancement of his favorite science." The aid granted by the State was $100,000, and the private subscriptions among the citizens of Boston reached $71,125. The latter sum was used to erect a fire-proof building in Cambridge, suitable to receive, protect, and exhibit Agassiz's collections, and the corner-stone of the Museum was laid with appropriate ceremonies on the 14th of June, 1859. In December of the same year the building was so far advanced that the larger part of his collections were removed to it for greater protection, and in May, 1860, when he returned from Europe to find his fire-proof Museum completed, he declared that, after examining the principal museums of Europe, there was nothing in his own which he wished to alter.

Though the building had now been erected, Agassiz's work was only begun. For fourteen years he was permitted to labor in the interests of his favorite science, and in this interval, always keeping open heart to the Legislature, which never refused his requests, and never denying himself the society of the Boston citizens who had interested themselves in his behalf, he not only made enormous collections of specimens, but gathered around himself a band of younger men, who are now carrying on the studies and original investigations from which the hand of death took their master in 1873. Among the foremost of these specialists are Prof. Nathaniel S. Shaler, Alexander Agassiz, Samuel H. Scudder, Alpheus Hyatt, Frederick W. Putnam, Edward S. Morse, Theodore Lyman, and Joel A. Allen, all of whom, and many besides, were trained under Agassiz's own eye, in the hope that, as has proved to be the case, the Museum in their hands might reach the magnitude and importance which he had outlined for it in his own early plans.

But this work could never have reached its present proportions had not other benefactors come forward at its inception to supplement Francis Calley Gray's bequest. It has been often remarked that "seventy men give all the money in Boston." It was Agassiz's fortune to inspire several of the immortal "seventy" with special enthusiasm for his own consecration to science. Among his chief helpers in the outset were his father-in-law, Thomas G. Cary, the venerable Dr. Jacob Bigelow, George Ticknor, John M. Forbes, William Gray, James Lawrence, John Amory Lowell, and Martin Brimmer; and in the same rank of helpers were also several ladies who took a deep interest in the Museum, especially Mrs. G. Howland Shaw, Mrs. George R. Russell, and Mrs. Augustus Hemenway.

Thomas Greaves Cary, a graduate of Harvard in the class of 1811, and chiefly known as a great cotton manufacturer, was the son-in-law of Colonel Perkins, of whom it used to be said fifty years ago that "they had nobody in Boston but Perkins." Mr. Cary's daughter was Agassiz's second wife. His son rendered Agassiz the greatest service in collecting specimens in California and elsewhere, and father and son successively superintended his financial affairs, which were always tending towards disorder.

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Dr. Jacob Bigelow, a Harvard graduate of 1806, lived beyond his ninetieth year, and was one of the most remarkable men of his time. He was one of the originators of Mount Auburn Cemetery, the first of its kind in the United States, a voluminous medical writer, an aspirant to poetical fame, and a broad-minded, vigorous man, whose support was a tower of strength to any enterprise in which he engaged.

George Ticknor, author of the 'History of Spanish Literature," will always be remembered as one of the founders of the Boston Public Library, but he will be hardly less remembered as the friend of literary and scientific men. In 1825 the shy Percival found in him his best friend, and in 1859 Agassiz was assisted in the same generous spirit. Though ignorant of natural history, he knew genius at sight.

John M. Forbes is identified with the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad, has large wealth, and is one of the powers behind the throne in current politics.

William Gray (Harvard, 1829), the nephew of Francis Calley Gray, has been repeatedly a benefactor to the University. He carried out his uncle's intentions with sagacity and liberality, and at about the same time gave $25,000 to the College Library for immediate use.

James Lawrence, of the Harvard class of 1840, was the son of Abbott Lawrence, and inherited his father's large conception of the uses of money.

The late Samuel Hooper, for many years a Representative from Boston in Congress, was a great friend of Agassiz, always ready to forward his scientific labors.

John A. Lowell, the Trustee of the Lowell Institute, which was founded by his cousin, has been as devoted a friend to Agassiz as any of his contemporaries were.

Martin Brimmer (Harvard, 1843), one of the founders of the Museum of Fine Arts, felt a keen interest in Agassiz's success, and has contributed largely again and again to help him on.

These men were Agassiz's body guard. Many others had a hand in the $473,935 which had been contributed to the Museum and its interests by private subscription up to 1871, but their names are too numerous to be mentioned here. It is also impossible to overlook the generosity of the people of the State as represented by the General Court. Agassiz inspired the people as he inspired men of wealth, by the sincerity of his purposes, with a sense of the importance of his work. Again and again the State was approached for assistance, and as often as Agassiz came his own enthusiasm possessed our legislators, and they granted what he asked on condition that his wealthy friends subscribed a like amount, which they never failed to do. Even during the enormous strain of the war the Legislature did not forsake the Museum or neglect its interests. For the years 1872–73, the private subscriptions footed up $150,909, and when Agassiz had passed away, in 1874, and the Agassiz Memorial Fund was begun with the purpose of raising $300,000, the State contributed $50,000 at once, Quincy Adams Shaw gave $100,000 for the second time, Alexander Agassiz gave $30,000, James M. Barnard began the Teachers and Pupils' Fund, which finally reached $9,192 from 86,696 contributors, the general subscriptions came up to $115,600, and on January 1, 1876, the whole sum amounted to $310,673.99. All together the benefactions to the Museum from public and private sources have been larger than have ever before within the same space of time been placed at the disposal of any educational institution in the Commonwealth except Harvard University itself. It was the personality of Agassiz that brought it out. The scientists of Europe might say that their fellow-laborer was asleep because he did not write books, but Agassiz judged more wisely in building up an institution through whose aid the men who followed him might write the books which organizers and founders seldom have time to undertake.

Five men deserve mention quite apart from any others as the special benefactors of the Museum. First comes Alexander Agassiz who is more and more making both

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his work and fortune the means of developing his father's plans. His generosity knows no limits. But next to him stands Quincy Adams Shaw, of the Harvard class of 1845, who married Agassiz's daughter, and whose purpose has apparently been to place his large property almost unreservedly at the disposal of the Trustees of the Museum. Some $230,000 has already been given by him, and his generosity is no more exhausted by these acts than the Calumet and Hecla mine, of which he owns the lion's share. His gifts, like those of the younger Agassiz, seem to have been prompted by the desire to make Louis Agassiz's scientific heroism as notable as his plans in the interest of American science were large-minded. He inherits from his father, the late Robert Gould Shaw, one of the first merchants of Boston, rare financial ability. From early youth he had the belief that there was money in the mining of copper ore, and ventured a large property, under this conviction, in the Huron mine, which proved to be a failure. For a few months, when he had lost all his inheritance, it was with him "pull Dick, pull Devil"; he had faith in the Calumet and Hecla, and infused his own faith into his friends, until the mine was opened and he became, with Alexander Agassiz, who developed its ore while Mr. Shaw supplied the money to carry on the work, one of the richest men in Boston, and, it may be justly added, one of the most generous. The next benefactor of the Museum is Nathaniel Thayer, whose endowments of Harvard already exceed a quarter of a million, and whose gifts to Agassiz in the earlier stages of his work were something royal. Mr. Thayer is the younger brother of the late John Eliot Thayer. They were bankers and extensive owners of railroad stock under the firm name of John E. Thayer & Brother. Nathaniel Thayer was Agassiz's great money support in the earlier times, the great backbone of the money supply among his private helpers. He never backed out of any undertaking for Agassiz because it cost too much money. He supplied his illustrious friend with several scholarships, by which he had obtained student helpers in the Museum, and has always shown the largest appreciation of institutions of science and learning. When Agassiz was planning his scientific expedition to Brazil he was perplexed from the want of helpers; he had no money to engage them, and no means to make the journey to Brazil anything more than a private pleasure excursion for himself and Mrs. Agassiz. While pondering over his difficulties he met Mr. Thayer, who immediately asked him what he required to make his expedition successful, and, on learning the Professor's views and circumstances, frankly replied, "Take six assistants with you, and I will be responsible for all their expenses." This expedition, which is most justly called the "Thayer expedition," proved in the event much more costly than was expected, but until the last specimen was stored in the Museum Mr. Thayer advanced whatever was needed to meet all the expenses. This patron of science has outlived his great friend, but his name is inseparably joined with that of Louis Agassiz. A benefactor not less honored, hardly less important, is James M. Barnard, a living Boston merchant, — brother of the Rev. Charles F. Barnard of Warren Street Chapel fame, — who studied natural history under Agassiz, and who at a time when his friend was burdened with debts incurred in publishing his "Fossil Fishes" took the whole charge of the enterprise, and later on rendered him the greatest service in his money affairs, saving Agassiz the nervous wear and tear that would have destroyed him some years sooner. From 1855 to 1865 Mr. Barnard was his ever-ready encourager, adviser, and helper, at a period when Agassiz was always in want of money to foster his favorite studies; and to him belongs the credit of managing the Teachers and Pupils' Memorial Fund already mentioned, by which thousands of fellow-workers were permitted to join in a personal tribute to their great instructor.

The list of benefactors would not be complete without the name of Theodore Lyman, the well-known Fish Commissioner, one of

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gassiz's foremost pupils, one who helped o make every dollar given to the Museum vailable to the utmost, one whose contributions rank him among the first half-dozen of Agassiz's private helpers, and one whose service to his master in critical moments was worth more than money in bringing the Museum up to its present magnificent success.

During the last twenty years the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy has received, if not all that was needed, an unusually large amount of public and private assistance. The contributions, if they could all be reckoned in, would at this time reach over $1,000,000, and this is a large sum to be contributed to one single department in an American university in the short space of twenty years. If Agassiz was fortunate, while living, in interesting people who had both the ability and the will to help him, much more has he been fortunate in raising up pupils who have expanded his work upon the basis which he planned. It was not for a dream of the imagination that he gave up the writing of books and consequent fortune, to found an institution which already begins to rival the British Museum in London and the Jardin des Plantes in Paris in the extent and richness of its collections. Great was Agassiz, but what could Agassiz have done without his army of friends?

THE ASSOCIATION OF THE ALUMNI.

BY SAMUEL A. GREEN, M. D., SECRETARY.

THE Association of the Alumni of Harvard College was formed, August 16, 1840, when a meeting was held at Cambridge to consider the report of a committee in relation to a permanent organization. The date of the appointment of this committee is not given in the records. They made a report recommending such an Association, and presented the draft of a constitution, which, for the most part, was adopted.

Membership was open to any person who has taken from the College the degree of Bachelor or Master of Arts, or who had received the honorary degree either of Doctor of Divinity or of Doctor of Laws. To become a member it required only an admission fee of one dollar and the signing of the Constitution. It was intended to hold meetings annually at Cambridge, and to have a dinner on the day preceding Commencement, though it does not appear from the records that any meeting was held during the years 1841 or 1843. In 1844 an effort was made to extend the membership to graduates of the different Professional Schools, when the question was referred to the next annual meeting. This matter, however, never came up again for consideration. The meetings, for several years afterward, were so thinly attended that no business beyond adjournment was transacted. The regular meeting in 1849 was omitted, though, after the customary exercises of Commencement Day, a large number of the graduates assembled in the chapel, in conformity with printed notices previously circulated. The object of the meeting was to create, on the part of the Alumni, an increased interest in the Association. Resolutions were introduced providing for a reorganization of the society, and requesting its officers to make the necessary arrangements for a meeting the next year. The changes which took place in 1850 were the immediate result of this action.

In the year 1868 other changes were made in the plan of the Association. This was done in accordance with the recommendations of a committee appointed at the annual meeting of the previous year. They recommended that the Alumni day should be combined with Commencement; and the Corporation of the College readily assented

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to the request that the exercises in the church should be shortened, and the management of the dinner in the afternoon given up to the Association. It was thought that this plan would induce a larger attendance of graduates, and, as the Overseers were now an elective body, this fact would have an important bearing. Membership in the Association was so far changed that the class graduating on the day of the meeting were excluded, and the payment of any fee on admission was abolished. The changes that were made in 1868 did not go into effect, however, until the succeeding year, since which time they have been continued.

Within the last few years, the attendance at Commencement has increased, though this is due mainly to the election of Overseers on that day, and to the larger classes that now graduate. In 1874 the Memorial Hall was used for the first time for the Commencement dinner, when about eleven hundred sat down to the tables. Before that time the dinner had been given in Harvard Hall or the upper hall of Massachusetts, though neither one of these was large enough to accommodate the Association; and it was the custom for the younger classes to dine in another hall, where they had their own presiding officer and speakers.

The Presidents of the Association, with their terms of service, have been as follows: —

John Quincy Adams, 1840–48.
Edward Everett, 1850–54.
Robert C. Winthrop, 1855–62.
Oliver Wendell Holmes, 1863–67.
William Gray, 1868–71.
E. Rockwood Hoar, 1872.
James Russell Lowell, 1873–75.
Charles Devens, Jr., 1876.
Samuel Eliot, 1877, 1878.
James C. Carter, 1879, 1880.

THE HARVARD DIVINITY SCHOOL.

BY CHARLES C. EVERETT, D. D., DEAN OF THE SCHOOL.

Of the three chief Professional Schools connected with Harvard University, the Divinity School was the last to be organized. This was not because the study of theology was considered to be foreign to the objects of this institution; but rather because it had been regarded as so essential to the full work of the College that arrangements of an informal character had been early made for its pursuit. Indeed, the College had been founded largely for this purpose, and its first professorship was the Hollis Professorship of Divinity, which was established in 1722, by Thomas Hollis. In 1765 the Hancock Professorship was founded by Thomas Hancock, for the purpose of teaching the Oriental languages, especially the Hebrew. In 1811 the Dexter Lectureship on Biblical Literature was founded by Samuel Dexter, and in 1815 the Parkman Professorship of Theology was founded by Samuel Parkman. Both the Hancock and Parkman endowments were afterwards increased by gifts from others, and the Parkman Professorship was not filled till some years later.

The teaching of the theological professors was given in part to undergraduates, and in part to resident graduates preparing for the ministry. The same instruction was at one time given by the Hollis Professor to both classes of students. The undergraduates, however, objecting, not unnaturally, to a part of the studies required of the candidates for the ministry, a division of the work was made. The establishment of a special school for theological study was thus not the introduction into the College of a new element, but simply a change in the form and method of doing what the College had always done. It was an example of that differentiation which marks all orderly development.

A glance at the state of things just before

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